

INDEX OF REPORTS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND THE ARTS,

1834-1890.

PUBLISHED BY THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
PHILADELPHIA:

1890.



882

INDEX TO THE REPORTS

— OF THE —

Committee on Science and the Arts

— OF THE —

Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania,

1834-1890.

COMPILED

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

— BY —

PERCY A. BIVINS

AND PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE INSTITUTE.



PHILADELPHIA :

1890.

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EDWARD STERN & CO.
PHILADELPHIA.



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PREFACE.

The Committee on Science and the Arts of the Franklin Institute was organized in 1834, for the purposes expressed in the following quotation from the By-Laws of the Institute :

“ To perform such duties as may devolve upon them, and to sustain by their labors the scientific character of the Institute.”

Originally this committee consisted of such members of the Institute as should voluntarily enroll themselves as pledged to perform such work, and their reports were submitted to the Institute for ratification.

To this committee were referred the examination of new inventions and discoveries, and recommendations for rewards for meritorious inventions.

With the rapid progress of the arts the number of applications for awards greatly increased, and with it the danger of erroneous recommendations from a voluntary committee. In 1887, the committee was reorganized so as to be elective, consisting of forty-five members, fifteen being chosen annually for a term of three years, and their action was accepted as the decision of the Institute.

Up to the year 1888, about 1,500 examinations and reports had been made, which were simply filed away in numerical order. A knowledge of their contents (excepting those that had been published) rested only in the recollections of the members. Comparatively few of the earlier members now survive.

The value of these reports as indicating earlier states of art was recognized by the Committee, and in order to render them accessible for reference, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the Committee at their meeting of October 2, 1889 :

“ WHEREAS, There have been a large number of reports prepared by the Committee on Science and the Arts which are not within the knowledge or recollection of many of the present membership of the Committee and are not useful or convenient for reference, for the reason that there is no index or catalogue setting forth their subject-matter, although many of these reports contain valuable and exact information as to the state of many arts in earlier periods ;

“ AND, WHEREAS, Provision has been made without cost to the

Institute for the expense of clerical services incurred in the preparation of suitable subject-matter indices for said reports, from the first reports issued to this date, such intended indices being

“(1) Of the names of applicants for examination.*

“(2) Of the names of the inventors.

“(3) Of the title of the invention; and

“(4) Of the subject-matter as classified to conform to the system of classification now employed in the U. S. Patent Office;

“*Therefore Resolved*, that a committee be appointed to supervise the preparation of said indices and that upon the completion thereof, all subsequent reports be immediately added to said indices as soon as final action of the Committee is taken thereon.”

The sub-committee was appointed by the Chair as follows: Messrs. Cheney (Chairman), Heyl, Hexamer, Leclère and Wiegand.

The compilation of the Index, under the direction of the Committee, was completed in December, 1889, and by the Committee on Science and the Arts was reported to the Institute, and by the Institute referred to the Board of Managers, which directed its publication.

Provision has been made by the Secretary to index in like manner all subsequent reports, so that hereafter the record of the researches of the committee will readily be accessible.

Applications upon which, from lack of data or other reason, no report was made, are indicated in the Index by an asterisk (*). In such case, however, the records, which are accessible, will generally be found to contain a complete history of the case.

The compilation of this Index and the supervision of its publication were done by Mr. Percy A. Bivins, to whom the Committee's acknowledgments are due for the intelligent and thorough execution of the work.

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